

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 143621

20

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INFO AMCONSUL STRASBOURG

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 143621

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR,EGEN,EEC

SUBJECT: EUROPEAN UNITY

1. CONCERN ABOUT US SUPPORT FOR EUROPEAN UNITY SURFACED ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS DURING THE PRESIDENT'S PRIVATE TALKS WITH EUROPEAN LEADERS IN LATE MAY. MANY ASKED SPECIFICALLY WHETHER US BACKING FOR EUROPEAN UNIFICATION REMAINS STRONG. THE PRESIDENT STRESSED CONTINUED US SUPPORT FOR POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC UNIFICATION IN EUROPE BUT ALSO NOTED THAT IT WOULD NOT BE APPROPRIATE FOR THE UNITED STATES TO TAKE THE LEAD IN THIS PROCESS. SHOULD ADDRESSEE POSTS HAVE FURTHER FEEDBACK ON THIS QUESTION OR BE QUERIED BY EUROPEANS, YOU MAY DRAW ON THE FOLLOWING CLARIFICATION AND REAFFIRMATION OF US POLICY.

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PAGE 02 STATE 143621

2. WE BELIEVE THAT EUROPEAN UNITY CAN BE A CENTRAL PILLAR

FOR TRANSATLANTIC COOPERATION. IT CAN MAKE AN ESSENTIAL CONTRIBUTION TO THE POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC STABILITY AND WELL-BEING ON WHICH OUR MUTUAL SECURITY DEPENDS.

3. OUR SUPPORT FOR EUROPEAN UNION RESTS ON THE BELIEF THAT A MORE UNITED EUROPE HELPS ACHIEVE THE LARGER GLOBAL OBJECTIVES WHICH WE HOLD IN COMMON. RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE CHALLENGING PROBLEMS OF ENERGY, PRIMARY COMMODITIES AND FOOD

IS BEST SHARED BY A STRONG EUROPE, IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE UNITED STATES AND JAPAN. WE, OF COURSE, DO NOT SUPPORT EUROPEAN UNITY BASED ON ANTI-AMERICANISM. SPURRED BY THE MOMENTUM OF THE RECENT MEETINGS IN PARIS AND BRUSSELS, WE LOOK FORWARD TO EXPANDING DIALOGUE AND PRODUCTIVE COOPERATION WITH EUROPE.

4. WE BELIEVE THAT THE EUROPEANS MUST TAKE THE INITIATIVE IN THEIR OWN BEHALF. WE SUPPORT BUT ARE RELUCTANT TO INTRUDE UPON AN ONGOING PROCESS OF SUCH COMPLEXITY. WE RECOGNIZE THAT THE EUROPEANS ARE STILL SORTING OUT THEIR OWN PREFERENCES AND OPTIONS FOR ACTION. IT IS UNCLEAR, FOR EXAMPLE, WHAT MOMENTUM AND EMPHASIS THE COMMUNITY WILL ASSUME FOLLOWING THE BRITISH REFERENDUM, HOW NEW EC INSTITUTIONS LIKE THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL WILL AFFECT DECISION-MAKING WITHIN THE COMMUNITY, WHAT THE TINDEMANS REPORT WILL CONCLUDE, AND HOW DEVELOPMENTS ALONG EUROPE'S SOUTHERN FLANK AND ELSEWHERE IN EUROPE OUTSIDE THE COMMUNITY WILL INFLUENCE THE COURSE OF WESTERN EUROPEAN POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC INTEGRATION. REGARDING THE SOUTHERN FLANK, WE RECOGNIZE THAT THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY HAS A SPECIAL INTEREST.

5. WE ARE FOLLOWING CLOSELY EUROPEAN THOUGHT AND ACTION ON THE COURSE OF EUROPEAN UNITY AND INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL TRENDS INFLUENCING THAT PROCESS. SUCH DEVELOPMENTS HAVE IMPORTANT SHORT- AND LONG-TERM IMPACT ON US INTERESTS. WE WOULD WELCOME REPORTING ON THIS COMPLEX OF ISSUES, INCLUDING ANY REACTIONS TO RECENT MEETINGS WITH PRESENT FORD. WHILE YOU SHOULD NOT ACTIVELY SOLICIT SUCH INFORMATION, POSTS SHOULD REMAIN ALERT TO ANY NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 143621

EUROPEAN THINKING ABOUT THE COURSE OF EUROPEAN UNIFICATION OR CONCERN ABOUT US SUPPORT FOR EUROPEAN UNITY. IF ASKED ABOUT US VIEWS, YOU MAY DRAW ON PARAS 2-4 ABOVE. INGERSOLL

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